In the Official Action mailed on **09 July 2008**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-26, and 28-30. Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13, 15, 16, 18-23, 25, 26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Ellison et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,547, hereinafter "Ellison"), and Ho (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,342, hereinafter "Ho"), and Guthery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,963,740, hereinafter "Guthery"). Examiner rejected claims 4, 14 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Ellison, Ho, Guthery, and Nilsen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,606,693, hereinafter "Nilsen").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), asserting that these claims are unpatentable over Ellison in view of Ho and Guthery. Applicant respectfully disagrees, because neither Ellison, nor Ho, nor Guthery, nor any combination of the three, teach the element of " a caching mechanism configured to cache a local copy of the configuration information to facilitate configuration of the database when the database cannot connect to the directory server" as disclosed in claim 6 of the Instant Application.

Specifically, Ellison discloses:

> *According to one embodiment of the invention, hardware **116** is also specifically tailored for executing database server **112**. **The cache hit ratio experienced by the database appliance 110** may be improved by a special configuration of the hardware. Specifically, at the hardware level, the operating system level, the database server level, and possibly at the database application level, data is moved between the levels by copying the data from one place in memory to another. **In a general purpose computer system, each layer will typically use different buffers for storing and copying the data**, and different algorithms for determining which data should be stored in its buffers. In contrast, **according to one embodiment of the invention, from the database server level to the level of the microchips in hardware 116**, the same algorithm is used for determining which data is to be cached*. (Ellison, Column 5, Lines 3-17)

It is clear from the reference above that Ellison is disclosing a **data cache** that is used by the database appliance to cache data for an application. In contrast to Ellison, embodiments of the present invention "keep a local cached copy of all **configuration information** received from directory server 110 to facilitate **configuration and access control** for times when directory server 110 may be unavailable." (Instant Application, Paragraph [0025]) Thus, the cache disclosed in the Instant Application is not a data cache used bu the database itself, but rather, is a cache of configuration information used by embodiments of the present invention to configure and control database instances.

Furthermore, with regard to Claim 5, Examiner avers that Ellison teaches the directory server is Highly Available (HA) because Ellison discloses that the server will be available through the Internet, therefore making the communication with it Highly Available. Applicant respectfully points out that availability through the Internet does not make a system Highly Available. High Availability and Highly Available (HA) are terms that describe a sufficient degree of fault-tolerance of a system. (See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_availability and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-availability_cluster)

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to include the elements of claim 5 (HA) and claim 6 (configuration caching). Claims 5-6, 15-16, and 25-26, have been cancelled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21, as currently amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-4 and 8-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 12-14 and 18-20, which depend upon claim 11, and claims 22-24 and 28-30 which depend upon claim 21, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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